

Claims

- [c1] 1. A method of automatically detecting a number of application program interfaces (APIs) and/or remote methods associated with a server computer, comprising:
- requesting a list of the APIs and/or the exported remote methods from the server computer; and
 - providing the list of APIs and/or remote methods in response to the request.
- [c2] 2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the requesting is associated with a client computer.
- [c3] 3. A method as recited in claim 2, further comprising:
- sending a connection request to the server computer by the client computer based upon the list of APIs and/or remote methods; and
 - connecting to the server computer by the client computer.
- [c4] 4. A method for incorporating an electronic device into a network of electronic devices having at least one automatic API detection enabled server computer, comprising:
- requesting a list of application programming inter-

faces (APIs) and/or exported remote methods from the electronic device to automatic API detection enabled server computer by the electronic device; responding to the request by providing a comprehensive list of APIs and remote methods by the server computer to the electronic device; and connecting to the server computer by the electronic device using the comprehensive list of application programming interfaces (APIs) and exported remote methods wherein the electronic device uses selected ones of the list of APIs and remote methods to communicate with other members of the network by way of the server computer.

[c5] 5. A method as recited in claim 4, wherein the network is a heterogeneous network.

[c6] 6. A method as recited in claim 4, wherein the electronic device is selected from a group that includes a PDA, a computer, a processor embedded appliance, a cell phone.

[c7] 7. An apparatus for incorporating an electronic device into a network of electronic devices having at least one automatic API detection enabled server computer, comprising:

requesting a list of application programming inter-

faces (APIs) and/or exported remote methods from the electronic device to automatic API detection enabled server computer by the electronic device; responding to the request by providing a comprehensive list of APIs and Remote methods by the server computer to the electronic device; and connecting to the server computer by the electronic device using the comprehensive list of application programming interfaces (APIs) and exported remote methods wherein the electronic device uses selected ones of the list of APIs and remote methods to communicate with other members of the network by way of the server computer.

- [c8] 8. An apparatus as recited in claim 7, wherein the network is a heterogeneous network.
- [c9] 9. An apparatus as recited in claim 7, wherein the electronic device is selected from a group that includes a PDA, a computer, a processor embedded appliance, a cell phone.
- [c10] 10. A computer program product for incorporating an electronic device into a network of electronic devices having at least one automatic API detection enabled server computer, comprising:
 - computer code for requesting a list of application

programming interfaces (APIs) and/or exported remote methods from the electronic device to automatic API detection enabled server computer by the electronic device;

computer code for responding to the request by providing a comprehensive list of APIs and remote methods by the server computer to the electronic device;

computer code for connecting to the server computer by the electronic device using the comprehensive list of application programming interfaces (APIs) and exported remote methods wherein the electronic device uses selected ones of the list of APIs and remote methods to communicate with other members of the network by way of the server computer; and

computer readable medium for storing the computer code.

[c11] 11. A computer program product as recited in claim 10, wherein the network is a heterogeneous network.

[c12] 12. A computer program product as recited in claim 10, wherein the electronic device is selected from a group that includes a PDA, a computer, a processor embedded appliance, a cell phone.